

- [54] **CERTAIN**  
**6,7-DIOXO-2H-PYRROLO-[2,1-**  
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**California**, Berkeley, Calif.
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- [52] **U.S. Cl.**... **260/243 R**; 260/326.27; 260/293.54;  
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- [58] **Field of Search** ..... 260/243 R

- [56] **References Cited**  
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- [57] **ABSTRACT**  
A process for preparing lactams, particularly 1-  
azabicyclo[4.2.0]octanes, 1-  
azabicyclo[3.2.0]heptanes, 4-thia-1-  
azabicyclo[3.2.0]heptanes and 5-thia-1-azabicyclo  
[4.2.0]octenes, which comprises subjecting a cyclic  
 $\alpha$ -ketoamide to an oxidizing agent to form a carboxyl  
substituted lactam structure. The oxidant is preferably  
periodate, in an aqueous solution, at pH 5–9 and room  
temperature. The novel products obtained from the  
process are useful intermediates in the preparation of  
antimicrobial agents. The cyclic  $\alpha$ -ketoamide starting  
materials are also novel.

**3 Claims, No Drawings**